Notes ichtyologiques / *Ichthyological notes*

# First record of two deep-water fish, *Bellottia apoda* and *Symphurus ligulatus* in the Turkish Mediterranean Sea

by

M. Emilia GRAMITTO* (1), Mehmet C. DEVAL (2) & İsmet SAYGU (2)

**RÉSUMÉ.** - Premier signalement de deux espèces bathyales au large de la côte turque méditerranéenne.

*Bellottia apoda* Giglioli, 1883 et *Symphurus ligulatus* (Cocco, 1844) sont signalés pour la première fois au large de la côte turque méditerranéenne, par 500 à 600 m de profondeur environ. Certains caractères morphométriques et méristiques des deux poissons sont présentés. C'est le premier signalement de ces deux espèces dans la partie turque de la Méditerranée et aussi le plus oriental pour l'espèce *B. apoda* en mer Méditerranée.

Key words. - Bythitidae - *Bellottia apoda* - Cynoglossidae - *Symphurus ligulatus* - MED - Turkey - First record - Distribution.

The diversity of fish species in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea (Levant Basin) is quite low, particularly considering the deep-water species (Coll *et al*., 2010).

In this note we report the capture of two deep-sea species – *Bellottia apoda* Giglioli, 1883 and *Symphurus ligulatus* (Cocco, 1844) – which constitute new records in the Turkish Mediterranean Sea.

One specimen of each species was collected during deep-water trawl surveys recently carried out in the Bay of Antalya (Turkey) (Fig. 1). Trawling was carried out by the R/V "Akdeniz Su". The specimens are deposited in the Akdeniz University Ichthyological Collection (AKU).

## *BELLOTTIA APODA* GIGLIOLI, 1883

(Fig. 2)

### Material examined

AKU210, 1 male, standard length (SL) 48.5 mm, off Antalya (36°41.5'N; 31°03.6'E to 36°41.3'N; 31°18.5'E), depth 480-530 m, collected by C. Froglia, 27 Jun. 2010.

### Description

As the general morphology of *B. apoda* has been already described by many authors (i.e., Nielsen and Cohen, 1968; Nielsen *et al*., 2009), we give only the basic meristic and morphometric characters of our specimen.

Preopercule with one spine on crest, four spines on margin; on the right side one of the marginal spines has a bifid tip. Anal fin rays 70, caudal fin rays 6, pectoral fin rays 23. The poor condition of the specimen made it impossible to give a precise count of dorsal fin rays (between 83 and 90). Total number of gill rakers on anterior gill arch 11, four of which are elongated.

Head length: 29.9% SL; body depth at anal fin origin: 14.0% SL; upper jaw length: 14.8% SL; eye diameter 4.5% SL; postorbital length: 15.9% SL; preanal length: 52% SL; predorsal length: 38.1% SL.

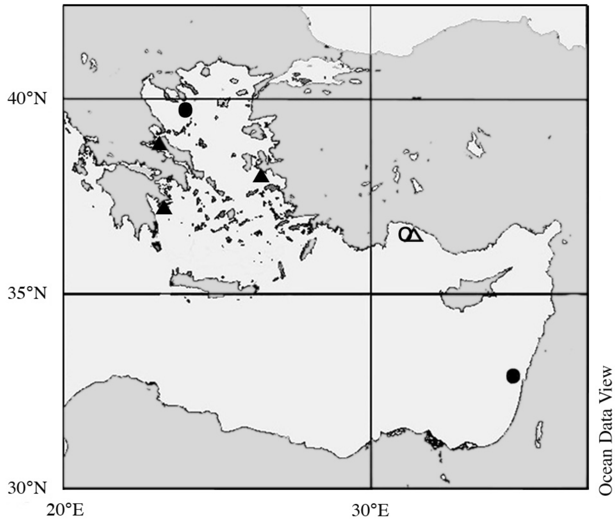

Figure 1. - Distribution in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Aegean Sea of *Bellottia apoda* (▲, △) and *Symphurus ligulatus* (●, ○). Black symbols for literature records; open symbols for present material.

All meristic and morphometric characters fit in the range observed by Gramitto and Coen (1997) in the Adriatic sample, the largest (121 specimens) available for this species, and by Nielsen *et al*. (2009).

### Distribution

*B. apoda* is the only representative of the genus in the Mediterranean Sea (see map of records in: Nielsen *et al*., 2009). In the Eastern Mediterranean, it is known from the Western Aegean Sea, Saronikos Gulf and north Evoikos Gulf (Papaconstantinou, 1984), and in the Turkish Aegean Sea from a single specimen recently found in the Sığacık Bay (Kaya and Bilecenoğlu, 2000). Our specimen is the first record of *B. apoda* for the Turkish Mediterranean Sea, extending eastward its known distribution (Fig. 1).

## *SYMPHURUS LIGULATUS* (COCCO, 1844)

(Fig. 3)

### Material examined

AKU211, 1 specimen, standard length (SL) 70 mm, off Antalya (36°42.4'N; 31°09.3'E to 36°41.6'N; 31°14.9' E), depth 500-

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(1) Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Istituto di Scienze Marine-U.O.S. Ancona, Largo Fiera della Pesca, 60125 Ancona, ITALY.
(2) Akdeniz University, Faculty of Fisheries, TR-07058 Antalya, TURKEY. [deval@akdeniz.edu.tr] [ismetsaygu@akdeniz.edu.tr]
* Corresponding author [e.gramitto@ismar.cnr.it]

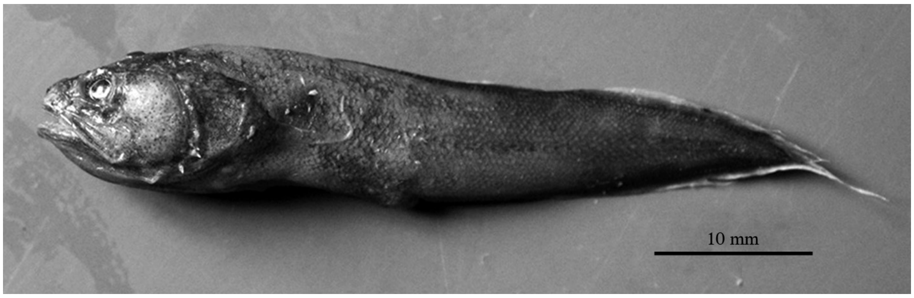

Figure 2. - *Bellottia apoda*. AKU210, male; Bay of Antalya.

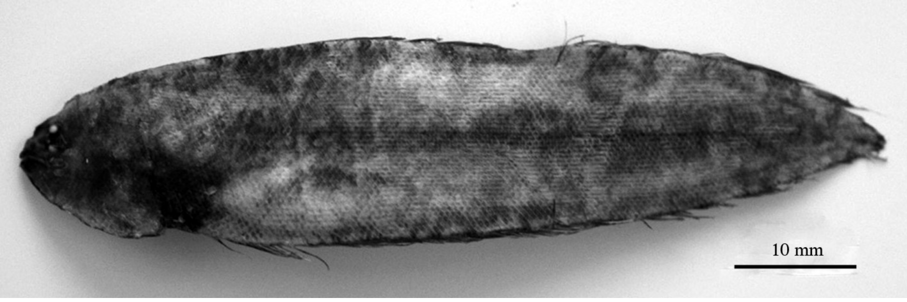

Figure 3. - *Symphurus ligulatus*. AKU211; Bay of Antalya.

600 m, collected by M.C. Deval, 16 Jul. 2010.

### Description

Small flat fish, with eyes on left side of body. Small and terminal mouth. Pectoral fins absent; dorsal, anal and caudal fins jointed. Body slender and elongate, with largest body depth 15 mm (21.4% of SL). Head length 11 mm (15.7% of SL). Colour of ocular side brownish with darker spots. Dorsal and ventral profiles almost parallel.

The body outline makes the species easily recognizable from the cogeneric species S*ymphurus nigrescens* Rafinesque, 1810.

### Distribution

*S. ligulatus* is known from the eastern Atlantic, from Morocco to Mauritania and in the whole Mediterranean Sea, Aegean Sea included (Labropoulou and Papaconstantinou, 2000); it was recently recorded off the coast of Israel (Goren *et al*., 2008). Our specimen is the first record from the Turkish Mediterranean waters (Fig. 1).

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**Note added in proofs**. - One more specimen of *B. apoda* (male, SL 54 mm) was collected on 8 Dec. 2010, on the same ground, depth about 500 m.

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